PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO.: 200209284-1

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-27 are pending, of which claims 1, 10, and 19 are in independent form.

Claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended by way of the present response.

No new matter is introduced.

Favorable reconsideration of the present application as currently constituted is respectfully requested.

**Regarding the Claim Rejections**

In the pending Office Action, claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0128638 in the name of Kerzman et al. (the *Kerzman* reference). In connection with these §102(e) rejections, the Examiner has commented as follows with respect to the base claims:

> A method/ system/ and computer platform for navigating through design information associated with an IC design, comprising:
> A text based connectivity database structure including a plurality of design objects provided for said IC design [fig. 5-9; paragraphs 0006-0011, 0021-0023; 0031-0032; 0063-0066]; and
> A GUI structure supported by a browser engine that provides a command line interface for interrogating said connectivity database using at least a portion of a text

based indicium associated with a design object [fig. 5-9; paragraphs 0006-0011, 0021-0023; 0031-0032; 0063-0066];
A hierarchical tree arrangement [fig. 5-9; paragraphs 0006-0011, 0021-0023; 0031-0032; 0063-0066];
A block name and expression [fig. 5-9; paragraphs 0006-0011, 0021-0023; 0031-0032; 0063-0066];
Net name and expression [fig. 5-9; paragraphs 0006-0011, 0021-0023; 0031-0032; 0063-0066];
Instance name [fig. 5-9; paragraphs 0006-0011, 0021-0023; 0031-0032; 0063-0066]
Cell name [fig. 5-9; paragraphs 0006-0011, 0021-0023; 0031-0032; 0063-0066];
Menu driven dialog boxes for selectively reversing said text-based connectivity database [fig. 5-9; paragraphs 0006-0011, 0021-0023; 0031-0032; 0063-0066];
A user interface pane operable to display results obtained responsive to interrogating said text based connectivity database [fig. 5-9; paragraphs 0006-0011, 0021-0023; 0031-0032; 0063-0066].

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending §102(e) rejections have been overcome or otherwise rendered moot by way of the present response. Embodiments of the present invention are directed to providing an efficient navigation tool for navigating through design information associated with an IC design. As currently constituted, base claim 1 is directed to a system for navigating through the design information wherein a browser engine provides a command line interface for interrogating a connectivity database using at least a portion of a text-based indicium supplied by a user for searching the connectivity database structure. The text-based indicium is operable to be associated with one or more

design objects of the connectivity database structure. Substantially identical features are also included in the remaining base claims 10 and 19 as currently amended.

The *Kerzman* reference is directed to a scheme for selecting and aligning IC design cells using a placement tool in an IC design process. At paragraphs [0006] through [0011], *Kerzman* generally describes various IC design concepts such as netlists, cell libraries, design libraries, user-defined blocks, and methods of specifying a particular IC design (e.g., via schematic capture or by means of a hardware description language (HDL)), by way of providing a background with respect to the need for a placement tool in the design process of an IC. At paragraphs [0021] through [0023], *Kerzman* generally describes placement of design objects, either automatic or manual placement, as well as global routing. Paragraphs [0031] and [0032] generally describe the need for flexibility in selecting cells for placement and context setting (wherein in-context cells may be distinguished from out-of-context cells). Paragraphs [0063] through [0066] generally describe providing visual feedback of the on-going design process to the designer by showing the design being constructed as a graphical symbols on a display. It is also provided at paragraph [0066] in particular that the *Kerzman* scheme provides an improvement to floor

planning software such that a designer can select, place, and align selected cells when desired.

Applicant respectfully submits that the placement tool of *Kerzman* does not teach or suggest Applicant's navigation tool as currently claimed. The applied language of *Kerzman* is silent with respect to navigating through the design information wherein a browser engine provides a command line interface for interrogating a connectivity database using at least a portion of a text-based indicium supplied by a user for searching the connectivity database structure. Reliance on FIGS. 5-9 of *Kerzman* in this regard is of no avail because, for example, menus 320 and 322 of FIG. 5 do not describe or allude to the claimed command line interface effectuated by a browser engine for searching a connectivity database using a text-based indicium. See FIG. 5; see also paragraphs [0084], [0092] and [0093]. Likewise, the various windows effectuated by the *Kerzman* placement tool, e.g., floorplanning window 288, logical windows 294 and 296, and physical windows 290 and 292, also do not describe or allude to a browser engine based command line interface for searching a connectivity database using a text-based indicium as currently claimed.

Based on at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the pending base claims 1, 10, and 19 are allowable over the

applied art of record. Further, dependent claims 2-9 (depending from base claim 1), dependent claims 11-18 (depending from base claim 10), and dependent claims 20-27 (depending from base claim 19) are believed to be in condition for allowance for the same reasons.

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**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

In view of the fact that none of the art of the record, whether considered alone or in combination discloses, anticipates or suggests the pending claims, and in further view of the above remarks and amendments, reconsideration of the Action and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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